(c) and (d) In the case of farmers affected by drought for 3 or more years in succession, the banks have been advised to defer the recoveries of the amounts falling due on account of principal as well as interest in the current year (July 1987—June 1988) for a period of two years or till the next normal year if it occurs earlier. The banks should not charge penal interest in such cases not should they compound interest on dues postponed. Besides, in the case of short term loans given by banks, the total interest payable by small and marginal farmers should not exceed the principal amount.

In view of the foregoing and as bank's resources comprise mainly deposits raised from the public on which they have to pay interest and meet other administrative expenditure, it will not be possible for them to agree for a general write off of interest.

Closure of Textile Mills in U.P. and Madhya Pradesh

737. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY; SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of textile mills in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have been closed down in the recent oast and some are on the verge of closure; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what is Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) As on 31.5.88. the number of cotton/ msn-made fibre textile mills lying closed since June. 1985 was 5 in Uttar Pradesh and 3 in Madhya Pradesh. It is not possible to say whether a textile mill is on the verge of closure because closure would be dependent on various factors like raw material prices financial standing of the mill saleability of the product, etc.

(b) Closure are indicative of a basis structural transformation of the textile sector. However, Government had constituted a Nodol Agency to examine sick textile mills to ascertain whether they are potentially viable or not The Nodal Agency prepares rehabilitation packages for mills found to be viable. A Textile Modernisation Fund has also been dreated to assist the {modernisation needs of weak textile units A Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has also been set up to consider the cases of textile companies coming within the ambit of the Sick Industrial Companies Act. Non-viable mills may have to close down permanently.

increase in Terrorist Activities

728. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether of late there has been an increase in the terrorist activities in Punjab. Haryana and Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Central Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE .MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHID-AMBARAM); (a) to (c) During the current year unto 26th July. 1988, 1381 persons have been killed in incidents due to terrorist violence in Puniab. An action plan has been drawn up to counter terrorist activities in the state. This includes erection of fence, nhvsical barriers of barbed wire obstacles. construction of OP towers, improving and laying of tracks on the border to check infiltration and smuggling of arms into